

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-21 are pending in this application. By this Response, independent claims 1 and 11-13 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 4, which is canceled by this Response. Claim 5 is amended to correct its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 4. No new matter has been added by the above amendments to the claims. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Jean-Gilles for the allowance of claim 21 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7. By this Response, independent claims 1 and 11-13 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 4. Thus, all of the independent claims now contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, all of the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

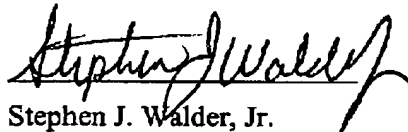
The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 are rendered moot in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into the rejected independent claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the incorporation of allowable subject matter by this Response is in no way an admission that the claims, in their previous state, are anticipated or even obviated by the cited references. To the contrary, Applicants reserve their right to pursue such claims in a continuation application should Applicants choose, and submit that the cited art, whether taken alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the features of the claims as previously presented. However, with regard to the present application, in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the application.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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